

Abstract of the Disclosure

There is disclosed an assay system for determining therapeutic activity for treating restenosis, atherosclerosis, chronic rejection syndrome and graft versus host disease (GVHD) by measuring inhibition of cell migration activity in smooth muscle cells expressing a US28 receptor from the CMV genome. Specifically, there is disclosed a method for measuring inhibition of cell migration in isolated cells transfected with US28 or infected with CMV and stimulated with a ligand. There is further disclosed a method for treating atherosclerosis, restenosis, chronic rejection syndrome and graft versus host disease (GVHD), comprising administering an effective amount of an agent that is a US28 receptor antagonist, wherein a US28 receptor antagonist comprises an inhibitor compound that prevents transduction of US28 receptor signal stimulated by a US28 receptor ligand, wherein a US28 receptor ligand is selected from the group consisting of RANTES, MIP-1 α and MCP. The invention further provides a method for treating restenosis, atherosclerosis, chronic rejection syndrome and GVHD by administering KHSV encoded vMIP-2, fractalkine or herbimycin.